TIMELY APPRECIATION.

Intro. If it were not for Xmas hkw many friends and acquaintances and even loved ones would go thru life unappreciated and unremembered. The breaking of the alabaster box by Mary was a timel appreciation. We make no greater mistake than the one of waiting until those whom we love are dead before we break the alabaster box of love and tenderness and appreciation.

For our Fellow Man's sake we should.

Two brothers traveling thru frozen country. "Brotherm I have saved this man's lofe. And also my ouwn for the effort marmed me thru and thru".

"Remember, my son, you are always third." adviised a mother to her son leaving for college. Placard, "I am third". First God, Second others, third myself.

The thing that happened on one of the transports from Santiago to New York. Bugler's lofe in balance. Other patients rigged up extra engine took turns running it. Saved the life and all were well when N.Y. was reached.

"They drew a circle that shut me out,
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout;
But love and I had the wit to win,
We drew a circle and took them in."

Your world will widen or narrow according as you build fences shutting others out or in.

The mad rush of life today causes us to neglect our fellows until it is too late. Rush thru school. Rush in business. Social speed limit about 60 miles. Barely time tospeak to one another. All thru life a man hears no praise or receives any appreciation for services rendered. But when he dies theyall gather around his body and in tears tell what a good man he was and how much he did for others.

"Keep not the kisses for the dead cold brow,
Nor touch of affection for the hands that are still,
Hast thou an Alabaster Box? Break it now;
Encourage someone life's purpose to fulfill."

We need to break the alabaster box in the church.

In Ireland and Whales many bee keepers. Required every third year to distribute honey to neighbirs in recognition of the fact that the bees gathered honey off the neighbors flowers. Inthe church the faithful few who do all the work The many who dm little or nothing, yet are benefitted by what the faithful ones are doing. Parents send their children to S.S. where they receive the only grounding in religious principles, and yet how many parents go to the teachers in S.S. and thank them?

The blind organist in a church in Texas.
"I am sorry that you will not play for us longer. Your music helped me greatly; it comforted me when I was in sorrow and always was such an inspiration."

"O why did'nt you tell me sooner? I too needed comfort and inspiration."

Father and little girl walking thru one of the London

parks. Cwme to statue of Post-master Faucett. Back of it an angel about to crown the man with a wreath. Girl asked gather what the ahgel waa doing. "Putting a crown on a good man." "Will an angel put a crown on youm daddy?" "What's the matter with you? You're good enough. "Never mind, daddy, I'll be your angel and put a cwown on your head."

The wisdom of the child. We all can be the world's angel putting crowns all good people, recognizing the good that is n every man, awakening sould to the goodness and love of God, filling all lives with music and song.

A lady visited N.Y. noticed a little girl poorly clad gazing thru a window at some cakes. Took the little street urhin in bot cookies and bread, then clothes. The little girl looked into the wonan's face and asked innocently," Are you God's wife?" The church is the bride of Christ. May our actions be such that pepe can see that we are related tne the God of goodness and love.

5. We should break the alabaster box in the home.

The dying mother surrounded by her husband and six stalwoh sons . The wife and mother had slaved for them year in and year out and it never occurred to them to help her in her wrk. Now one of the boys remarked, "What a good mother she has been to all of us." Oh,' replied the dying woman, 'why did'nt you tell me that before?"

You who have parents, break the alabaster box now.

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A famous business man has recently said: "One year ago today I sat at my desk busy with bills and accounts, when a bright-faced, starry-eyed lad rushed in and announced, 'Say, Pa, this is your birthday; you are fifty-five years old and I am going to give you fifty-five kisses, one for each year,' and he began to make good his word,

when I exclaimed· 'Oh, Andrew, don't do it now, I am busy.'' His silence attracted my attention, and looking up I saw his big blue eyes filling with tears and I said, ''You can finish tomorrow.'' He made no reply, but was unable to conceal his disappointment. His face wore a grieved expression as he quietly walked away.

Two hours later in consequence of an accident the waves of the ocean closed over his body, and we laid him away to sleep, near the village where he loved to spend his summer vacations. The robins note was never sweeter than his voice, and the turtle-doves that coo to their nestlings could not be more gentle than the little boy who never finished his love constrained task.

We should learn to let others express the r appreciatn to us.

I will look sometimes about me for the things that merit praise;
I will search for hidden beauties that elude the grumbler's gaze;
I will try to find contentment in the paths that I must tread;
I will cease to have resentment when another moves ahead.
I will try to see the beauty spread before me, rain or shine;
I will cease to preach your duty, and be more concerned with mine.

"Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye did it unto me".